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ABSTRACT

This is a study of college enrollment trends in Louisiana. The rate of increase in enrollment in Louisiana's colleges and universities has been tapering off since 1964. An increasing proportion of students have been going to public rather than private schools--from a little over 50% in 1940 to 83.4% in 1968 and 1969. Fewer Louisiana students than the nationwide average finish high school, but more of those who do finish high school enter college. Few of those students, however, graduate. Of the 100 children who enter first grade, 55 graduate from high school, 40 enter college and 13 receive a degree. Eighteen of the 100 white students, but only 6 of the 100 black students who enter first grade graduate from college. Projections of the population into the 1970s indicate a growth in college enrollment, although in 1969 enrollment stayed level, and there was a serious drop in the proportion of freshmen who returned as sophomores. Louisiana has few acceptable alternatives to college and has not developed a good technical education program. There is great need for sound planning for Louisiana's higher education. (AF)

P A R ANALYSIS

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COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS

Summary

Increasing numbers of students have been enrolling in Louisiana's colleges since 1952, but there was practically no change in 1969. The rate of increase had been tapering off since 1964 when post-World War II babies swelled college enrollments.

There was no uniformity in enrollment changes among the various campuses. LSU-New Orleans had a 14.7 per cent increase while Southern-New Orleans had a 26.6 per cent loss. A significant development was a drop in sophomores; in 1968 almost two thirds of freshmen returned as sophomores, but only half did so in 1969.

A greater proportion of Louisiana's collegians have been going to public rather than private institutions--from a little over half in 1940 to 83.4 per cent in 1968. This proportion remained unchanged in 1969.

It appears that a smaller proportion of Louisiana's youth finish high school than is true for the nation, but more Louisiana high school graduates go on to college. Louisiana's high schools are geared to the college-bound student, but only a relatively few receive a college degree. Generally, out of 100 children who enter the first grade, 55 graduate from high school, 40 enter college and 13 receive a baccalaureate degree. About 18 of 100 white students who enter the first grade graduate from college, but only 6 Negroes receive a college degree.

Projections of the population into the 1970's indicate a different age "mix." The large number born in the late 1940's and early 1950's will become income-producers, thereby brightening the economy. The current 12-year decline in the number of births will cause elementary school enrollments to decline, and high schools should feel this impact by the mid-1970's. College enrollments will grow, due to an increase in this age group, to a larger proportion finishing high school and going on to college, and to a greater desire of college students to remain until graduation and enter post-graduate study.

No single factor caused Louisiana's college enrollments to level out in 1969, but there was probably a combination of causes. Although the number of 18-year olds in the population is diminishing, the 1969 increase in Louisiana's high school graduates was larger than in previous years, and college freshmen increased at about the same rate as high school graduates. Factors that may have affected 1969 enrollments include the finishing of college by the large number of post-World War II babies who entered college 4 years earlier in 1964 and 1965; difficulty in meeting costs of a college education because of inflation, a sag in Louisiana's economy, reduction in on and off-campus jobs, and increased student fees; the draft; and student unrest at some campuses. Louisiana's student loan program, expected to increase 20-25 per cent this year, should have counteracted some of the financial difficulties.

HE 001 421

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Although a large proportion of high school graduates enter college, many drop out during or after their freshman year. Louisiana has few acceptable alternatives except college, but many other states have developed excellent technical education programs.

Louisiana has done little planning of higher education, but now should be an opportune time during the current lull in college enrollments. The first task of the Louisiana Coordinating Council for Higher Education is to develop a master plan. The LSU system has a management study of its operations underway, and colleges under the State Board of Education have been urged to take similar steps. Some college officials have been basing requests for additional funds on rising enrollments, but this did not happen in 1969 for 7 public campuses. Needs of higher education will doubtless increase, and because of its unique importance to the state's future, higher education should be among the state's highest priorities. However, the financing of higher education must be based on sound planning and demonstrated need.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS

Louisiana's destiny depends upon a well-educated citizenry, for education is the primary means for developing and fulfilling human potential, improving the quality of life and ameliorating social ills. Education beyond high school has become increasingly important in a society that is rapidly becoming more sophisticated and complex. Hence, it is important that the state provide an educational system to meet the needs of all of its citizens, and that it support and plan its educational institutions to assure that their quality is constantly upgraded and that their programs and services take on increasing relevance.

Population Changes in the 1970's

This decade has become known as the "soaring sixties" for the many advances made in the nation's productivity. Some economists predict that the upcoming decade of the 1970's will be equally as bright, although conditions will change. One factor greatly influencing change will be a difference in the age "mix" of the population. The bumper baby crop of the late 1940's and early 1950's, who were dependent teenagers in this decade, will become young adults (20-29 years) in the 1970's and thus swell the size of the income-producing age group. The U. S. Bureau of the Census estimates that the age group of 25-34 years will increase by 50 per cent between 1970 and 1980.

There has been a steady drop in the birth rate as well as in the number of live births in recent years, not only in Louisiana but throughout the country. A decline in the number of births began in Louisiana in 1958 and has continued. For example, during the past 5 years the number of live births in Louisiana dropped from 86,060 in 1964 to 74,098 in 1968, and preliminary data for 1969 does not indicate an upward trend. This means that elementary schools will face a decline in enrollments in the decade ahead, and this cutback is expected to begin to affect high schools by the mid-1970's. The U. S. Office of Education, in a projection of education statistics to 1977, estimates that the number of

Table I

LOUISIANA COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS* (1940-1969)

Year	Public	Private	Total
1940	9,470	8,030	17,500
1941	13,965	8,026	21,991
1942[a]	11,475	7,048	18,523
1943[a]	10,034	7,162	17,196
1944[a]	8,990	7,446	16,436
1945[a]	10,014	7,437	17,451
1946	20,538	12,517	33,055
1947	22,409	13,899	36,308
1948	22,753	13,644	36,397
1949	19,535	13,882	33,417
1950	18,987	12,945	31,932
1951	18,752	12,127	30,879
1952	20,765	12,040	32,805
1953	22,977	12,551	35,528
1954	25,649	13,162	38,811
1955	29,237	13,814	43,051
1956	31,613	13,992	45,605
1957	33,030	14,067	47,097
1958	36,920	14,135	51,055
1959	39,130	13,856	52,986
1960	41,975	14,014	55,989
1961	46,018	14,387	60,405
1962	49,347	14,436	63,783
1963	53,827	14,917	68,744
1964	63,134	15,695	78,829
1965	71,034	16,157	87,191
1966	77,664	17,513	95,177
1967	84,998	18,258	103,256
1968	91,098	18,133	109,231
1969	91,277	18,134	109,411

*Resident degree credit students only. Enrollments are for the fall semester. Includes full-time as well as part-time students. Excludes Issac Delgado, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a few other private colleges with small enrollments.
[a]World War II.

high school graduates will not increase as fast in the years ahead. Nationally the increase in high school graduates between 1957-1967 was 85 per cent; it is estimated that the increase between 1967-1977 will be 33 per cent. This is in line with the increase in 18-year olds which grew 57 per cent between 1957-1967 but is estimated to increase only 19 per cent between 1967-1977.

Estimates for the country indicate that colleges will continue to have growing numbers of students, due to an estimated 25-per cent increase in the college-age group (18-24 years) during the next decade as well as to larger proportions of high school students going on to college and remaining there longer to graduate and then enter post-graduate study. Projections of Louisiana's population by the Division of Business and Economic Research of LSU-New Orleans indicate that those in a somewhat comparable college-age group (20-24 years) will increase by 20 per cent between 1970 and 1980. The higher level of educational attainment by a larger share of the population will doubtless make important contributions to the cultural, scientific and economic growth of the state and country.

Table 2

ENROLLMENTS* IN LOUISIANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, FALL 1969

Institution	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total Undergraduates	Evening & Special[a]	Graduate & Professional: Masters & Prof.	Graduate & Professional: Doctorate[b]	Total Graduate & Prof.	Total All Students
Public:										
F. T. Nicholls	1,807	812	667	586	3,872	522	443	---	443	4,837
Grambling	1,230	726	735	937	3,628	71	---	---	---	3,699
La. Polytechnic Inst.	2,319	1,458	1,397	1,610	6,784	135	516	28	544	7,463
LSU:										
Baton Rouge	4,508	2,988	2,746	2,977[c]	13,219	1,296	2,453	846	3,299	17,814
New Orleans	3,976	1,818	1,328	1,395	8,517	1,022	729	15	744	10,283
Alexandria	659	233	---	---	892	139	---	---	---	1,031
Eunice	327	94	---	---	421	37	---	---	---	458
Shreveport	819	227	---	---	1,046	389	---	---	---	1,435
LSU Medical Center:										
New Orleans	---	55[d]	50[d]	36[d]	141[d]	---	591[e]	39	630	771
Shreveport[f]	---	---	---	---	---	---	33[g]	---	33	33
McNeese	1,758	907	758	836	4,259	240	536	46	582	5,081
Northeast	3,370	1,189	936	1,323	6,818	---	740	58	798	7,616
Northwestern	2,202	1,075	935	890	5,102	---	881	34	915	6,017
Southeastern	1,706	1,078	1,009	1,004	4,797	146	609	---	609	5,552
Southern:										
Baton Rouge	3,011	1,329	1,145	1,163	6,648	---	584	---	584	7,232
New Orleans	499	324	261	195	1,279	30	---	---	---	1,309
Shreveport	469	186	---	---	655	26	---	---	---	681
U. of Southwestern La.	4,588	1,748	1,227	1,270	8,833	502	602	28	630	9,965
Total, Public[h]	33,248	16,247	13,194	14,222	76,911	4,555	8,717	1,094	9,811	91,277
Private:										
Centenary	238	186	193	238	855	201	---	---	---	1,056
Dillard	274	181	219	242	916	6	---	---	---	922
Louisiana College	239	215	151	244	849	128	---	---	---	977
Loyola	670	419	419	353	1,861	1,525	1,473	6	1,479	4,865
St. Mary's Dominican	104	110	83	102	399	200	---	---	---	599
Tulane	1,244	976	819	777	3,816	1,432	2,347	639	2,986	8,234
Xavier	591	293	240	231	1,355	24	102	---	102	1,481
Total, Private[i]	3,360	2,380	2,124	2,187	10,051	3,516	3,922	645	4,567	18,134
Total, Public and Private	36,608	18,627	15,318	16,409	86,962	8,071	12,639	1,739	14,378	109,411

*Resident degree credit students only. Includes full-time as well as part-time students.

[a] Evening students are primarily part-time undergraduates. Special students are primarily those who are unclassified as to grade level.

[b] Includes the following students enrolled in education specialist certificate programs, i.e., study beyond a master's degree: Nicholls, 12; McNeese, 53; Northeast, 12; Northwestern, 79; Southeastern, 26; USL, 19; Loyola, 257.

[c] Requirements for being classified as a senior lowered, thereby causing an increase in number of seniors.

[d] Department of nursing.

[e] Includes 513 enrolled for the M.D. degree and 61 for the D.D.S. degree. The D.D.S. degree program is a 4-year curricula which began in the 1968-69 year.

[f] Opened in fall 1969.

[g] M.D. degree only.

[h] Excludes collegiate enrollment at Isaac Delgado.

[i] Excludes enrollment at Baptist Christian College (Shreveport), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Notre Dame Seminary (New Orleans), Our Lady of Holy Cross (New Orleans), DeLisle Junior College (New Orleans), John Curtis Junior College (New Orleans), Mt. Carmel Junior College (Lacombe), St. Joseph's Seminary (St. Benedict), and Trinity Christian College (Baton Rouge).

Trend in College Enrollments

There has been an annual upward trend in college enrollments in Louisiana since 1952. However, the fall 1969 enrollments remained almost static. There does not appear to be a uniform pattern among the various institutions to explain the cause of the sudden flattening out of college enrollments. While data throughout the country on college enrollments has not yet been published, it has been reported to PAR that enrollments nationwide show a smaller gain in 1969 than last year although the picture varies in different sections of the country and for individual institutions. (Data on Louisiana college enrollments was gathered through PAR questionnaires.)

Even though the growth in the number of college students in Louisiana reached a virtual standstill in 1969, there has been a phenomenal increase in recent years, particularly when compared to the growth in the state's total population. Louisiana's population has increased by 15 per cent between 1960 and 1969 according to estimates of the U. S. Bureau of the Census. Those enrolled in college during this same period grew by 95.4 per cent, and those in public college increased by 117.5 per cent. College enrollments now represent about 3 per cent of the state's population.

Table 3

ENROLLMENTS* IN LOUISIANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, FALL 1968

Institution	Freshmen	Sophomores	Juniors	Seniors	Total Undergraduates	Evening & Special[a]	Graduate & Professional		Total Graduate & Prof.	Total All Students
							Masters & Prof.	Doctorate		
Public:										
F. T. Nicholls	1,795	853	563	479	3,690	587	483	---	483	4,760
Grambling	1,175	801	787	955	3,718	---	---	---	---	3,718
La. Polytechnic Inst.	2,228	1,508	1,456	1,509	6,701	---	505	15	520	7,221
LSU:										
Baton Rouge	4,557	3,189	2,915	2,916	13,577	1,387	2,457	832	3,289	18,253
New Orleans	3,276	1,494	1,108	1,219	7,097	1,210	648	7	655	8,962
Alexandria	504	237	---	---	741	239[b]	---	---	---	980
Eunice[c]	402	77	---	---	479	27	---	---	---	506
Shreveport[c]	994	219	31	5	1,249	266	---	---	---	1,515
LSU Medical Center:										
New Orleans	---	58[d]	39[d]	28[d]	125[d]	---	560	30	590	715
McNeese	1,940	883	701	727	4,251	315	440	32	472	5,038
Northeast	3,155	1,346	1,108	1,265	6,874	---	676	52	728	7,602
Northwestern	1,826	1,328	1,135	970	5,259	46	1,220	25	1,245	6,550
Southeastern	1,733	1,226	1,036	1,007	5,002	---	460	---	460	5,462
Southern:										
Baton Rouge	2,910	2,440	1,077	482	6,909	---	705	---	705	7,614
New Orleans	894	363	274	185	1,716	67	---	---	---	1,783
Shreveport[c]	440	141	---	---	581	70	---	---	---	651
U. of Southwestern La.	4,220	2,048	1,163	1,439	8,870	427	419	52	471	9,768
Total, Public[e]	32,049	18,211	13,393	13,186	76,839	4,641	8,573	1,045	9,618	91,098
Private:										
Centenary	304	257	199	196	956	352	---	---	---	1,308
Dillard	223	254	216	193	886	24	---	---	---	910
Louisiana College	269	272	191	223	955	137	---	---	---	1,092
Loyola	518	421	429	397	1,765	1,386	1,372	6	1,378	4,529
St. Mary's Dominican	144	98	88	111	441	132	---	---	---	573
Tulane	1,115	966	838	842	3,761	1,627	2,283	688	2,971	8,359
Xavier	497	292	249	193	1,231	33	98	---	98	1,362
Total, Private[f]	3,070	2,560	2,210	2,155	9,995	3,691	3,753	694	4,447	18,133
Total, Public and Private	35,119	20,771	15,603	15,341	86,834	8,332	12,326	1,739	14,065	109,231

*Resident degree credit students only. Includes full-time as well as part-time students.

[a]Evening students are primarily part-time undergraduates. Special students are primarily those who are unclassified as to grade level.

[b]Includes 103 students enrolled in nursing program who are not classified as freshmen or sophomores.

[c]Opened in fall 1967. Second year added in fall 1968.

[d]Department of nursing.

[e]Excludes collegiate enrollment at Isaac Delgado.

[f]Excludes enrollments at Baptist Christian College (Shreveport), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Notre Dame Seminary (New Orleans), Our Lady of Holy Cross (New Orleans), DeLisle Junior College (New Orleans), Mt. Carmel Junior College (Lacombe), St. Joseph's Seminary (St. Benedict), Trinity Christian College (Baton Rouge), and John Curtis Junior College (New Orleans).

Enrollments at both public and private colleges in Louisiana were down during the 1942-1945 era due to World War II, but they almost doubled in 1946 following the end of the war and the return of veterans. The number of college students remained high for the next 4 years, through 1950, as veterans completed their college education. There was a slight tapering off in the number of college students in 1951 and 1952, but then enrollments began to climb once more in 1953 and succeeding years. Beginning in 1964 there was a sizable jump in college enrollments as the large number of post-war babies entered college; increases followed through 1968 as these students remained in college and more and more high school graduates entered. (See Table 1.)

The annual increases occurring in college enrollments in Louisiana in recent years have been:

Fall of Year	Public	Private	Public and Private
1964	17.3%	5.2%	14.7%
1965	12.5	2.9	10.6
1966	9.3	8.4	9.2
1967	9.4	4.3	8.5
1968	7.2	-0.7	5.8
1969	0.2	0.0	0.2

Table 4

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS

Institutions of Higher Education Under State Board of Education and Compared With LSU Fall Semester, 1968 and 1969

FIELD	Louisiana Polytech. Inst.		McNeese		Northeast		Northwestern		U. S. L.		Total Institutions Under Board Of Education[a]		L. S. U.[b]	
	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969
Education	--	--	32	46	52	58	27	34	--	--	111	138	60	79
Engineering	2	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	5	48	36
Business Administration	12	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12	19	60	69
Economics	[c]	[c]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	[c]	[c]	24[d]	28[d]
Mathematics	1	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	8	14	9	18	34	26
Pharmacy	--	--	--	--	[c]	[c]	--	--	--	--	[c]	[c]	--	--
English	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	3	6	3	48	38
History	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	3	3	50	48
Biology	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	3	3	80[e]	116[e]
Microbiology	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	5	2	5	32[f]	28[f]
Total	15	28	32	46	52	58	27	34	22	28	148	194	436[g]	468[g]

[a] Doctoral degree programs authorized by State Board of Education on December 15, 1967.

[b] Includes LSU-Baton Rouge as well as LSU Medical Center where indicated. LSU-New Orleans also has students enrolled in a doctorate degree program but in chemistry only. Specialized degrees in pertinent fields are included.

[c] Doctoral degree program authorized, but no students enrolled.

[d] Includes 5 enrolled in 1968 and 4 in 1969 in agricultural economics and agribusiness.

[e] Includes 4 enrolled in 1968 and 8 in 1969 at LSU Medical Center.

[f] Includes 10 enrolled in 1968 and 12 in 1969 at LSU Medical Center.

[g] The total enrolled for doctoral degree programs at LSU-Baton Rouge, LSU-Medical Center and LSU-New Orleans is 869 students in 1968 and 900 in 1969. In this table, doctorate students at LSU are shown for comparative purposes only for those academic fields authorized at institutions under the State Board of Education, and not for all doctorate degree programs offered at LSU.

Obviously, the rate of increase has been tapering off, even with the addition of new public campuses, and, as already noted, there was virtually no increase in enrollments in 1969. Most of the earlier increases were on public campuses and, in fact, the number of students enrolled in private institutions dropped in 1968 and had an increase of only 1 student in 1969.

1969 Enrollments

The 1969 fall enrollments at both public and private colleges and universities in Louisiana totaled 109,411--only 180 students, or 0.2 per cent, more than last fall. Enrollments at institutions under public control totaled 91,277--an increase of 179 students over the fall of 1968, and private college enrollment totaled 18,134--only 1 student more than a year ago. (See Tables 2 and 3.) In 1968 enrollments grew by 5,975 students, or 5.8 per cent, over the prior year; there were 6,100 more students at public colleges and universities and 125 fewer at private institutions.

Current information is not available as to the number of Louisiana residents seeking a college education outside Louisiana. However, two national studies on the migration of college students--one for the fall of 1958 and the other for the fall of 1963--revealed that Louisiana, unlike most states, did not export its college students to a significant degree. There were more out-of-state collegians coming into Louisiana than Louisianians going out-of-state for college educations. Private institutions in Louisiana attracted more out-of-state students than did public institutions.

Variations Among Institutions

A close examination of Tables 2 and 3 indicates considerable variation in enrollment changes between 1968 and 1969. For example, among the public institutions, LSU-Baton Rouge, LSU-Eunice,

Table 5
TREND IN LOUISIANA COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS*
(Fall Semester)

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
PUBLIC:											
F. T. Nicholls	925	1,016	1,187	1,223	1,471	1,973[a]	2,652	3,184	3,706	4,760	4,837
Grambling	2,724	2,632	2,758	3,050	3,225	3,634	3,784	3,844	4,154	3,718	3,699
La. Polytechnic Inst.	3,475	3,700	3,928	3,890	4,376	5,227	6,540	7,199	7,112	7,221	7,463
LSU:											
Baton Rouge	10,053[b]	10,471	11,016	12,333	13,158	15,131[a]	16,454	17,629	18,348	18,253	17,814
New Orleans	2,151[b]	2,537[d]	3,111[c]	3,389	4,488[c]	5,764[a]	5,775	6 149	7,442	8,962	10,283
Alexandria	---	322[d]	515[c]	402	450	618	744	703	726	980	1,031
Eunice	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	342[d]	506[e]	458
Shreveport	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	807[d]	1,515[e]	1,435
LSU Medical Center:											
New Orleans	526	533	563	594	612	626	643	670	662	715	771
Shreveport	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	33[f]
McNeese	2,464	2,665	2,870[a]	3,031	2,802	3,317	3,782	4,265	4,527	5,038	5,081
Northeast	2,518	2,641	2,992[a]	3,315	3,639	4,229	5,140	5,960	6,740	7,602	7,616
Northwestern	2,887	3,024	3,246	3,463	3,731	4,291	4,868	5,202	6,333	6,550	6,017
Southeastern	1,734	2,139	2,577[a]	3,005	3,529	4,073	4,581	5,137	5,283	5,462	5,552
Southern:											
Baton Rouge	4,848[g]	4,791[g]	4,821[g]	4,760[g]	5,247	6,039	6,402	7,094	7,364	7,614	7,232
New Orleans	158[g]	625[g]	1,013[g]	1,059[g]	1,079	1,300	1,348	1,572	1,758[d]	1,783	1,309
Shreveport	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	362[d]	651[e]	681
U. of Southwestern La.	4,667	4,879	5,421	5,833	6,020	6,912	8,321	9,056	9,332	9,768	9,965
Total, Public	39,130	41,975	46,018	49,347	53,827	63,134	71,034	77,664	84,998	91,098	91,277
PRIVATE:											
Centenary	1,613	1,593	1,552	1,664	1,590	1,734	1,490	1,693	1,591	1,308	1,056
Dillard	924	906	890	875	867	839	864	927	1,005	910	922
Louisiana College	954	1,045	1,083	1,047	948	931	1,014	1,092	1,140	1,092	977
Loyola	2,352	2,335	2,598	2,531	2,845	3,090	3,276	3,819	4,334	4,529	4,865
St. Mary's Dominican	460	467	501	450	435	503	534	551	515	573	599
Tulane	6,571	6,843	6,954	7,069	7,460	7,782	8,082	8,239	8,327	8,359	8,234
Xavier	982	825	809	800	772	816	897	1,192	1,346	1,362	1,481
Total, Private	13,856	14,014	14,387	14,436	14,917	15,695	16,157	17,513	18,258	18,133	18,134
Total, Public and Private	52,986	55,989	60,405	63,783	68,744	78,829	87,191	95,177	103,256	109,231	109,411

*Resident degree credit students only. Includes full-time as well as part-time students.
[a]Graduate programs initiated.
[b]Represents freshmen and sophomore class only.
[c]Evening division initiated.
[d]Junior college opened. Freshmen only or mainly freshmen.
[e]Freshmen and sophomores.
[f]Opened. M.D. degree students only.
[g]College opened in fall 1959 with freshmen only. A sophomore class was added in 1960, a junior class in 1961 and a senior class in 1962.

LSU-Shreveport, McNeese, Southeastern and Southern-New Orleans had fewer freshmen in 1969 than 1968 while the other public colleges showed gains. In the 1969 sophomore class, all but LSU-New Orleans, LSU-Eunice, LSU-Shreveport, McNeese and Southern-Shreveport had fewer students than last year. There were fewer junior class students in 1969 at Grambling, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, LSU-Baton Rouge, Northeast, Northwestern and Southeastern. Grambling, Northwestern, Southeastern and the University of Southwestern Louisiana had a drop in seniors. Some of the fluctuations in the number of juniors and seniors are due to changes by some institutions in requirements for classifying seniors. When the number of juniors and seniors is combined, there were 837, or 3.1 per cent, more students enrolled in public institutions in 1969 than the prior year.

There was also an erratic pattern in evening and special (unclassified) students in 1969; overall, there was a drop of 86 students, or 1.9 per cent, among public institutions.

The number of graduate and professional students attending public institutions increased by 193, or 2 per cent, and the opening of the Shreveport branch of the LSU Medical Center accounts for 33 of these students. Nicholls, Northwestern and Southern-Baton Rouge had fewer graduate students in 1969 than last year.

In total enrollments among the public institutions, 7 campuses had fewer students enrolled in 1969 than last year: Grambling, LSU-Baton Rouge, LSU-Eunice, LSU-Shreveport, Northwestern, Southern-Baton Rouge and Southern-New Orleans.

There was also a confusing picture at private institutions. Centenary, Dillard, Louisiana College and St. Mary's Dominican lost freshmen while the others (Loyola, Tulane and Xavier) showed gains. (Some private colleges with small enrollments were not included in PAR's survey.) In total enrollments, only Centenary, Louisiana College and Tulane had fewer students in 1969 than in 1968. Centenary and Louisiana College showed losses in all categories of students except seniors. Tulane lost students at the junior and senior levels as well as evening students. Student unrest at Southern-New Orleans may account for some of the losses at this institution and gains at private institutions in New Orleans as well as at LSU-New Orleans.

New Doctoral Degree Programs

The establishment of doctoral degree programs at institutions under the State Board of Education is one of this state's most significant developments in higher education in recent years. For almost 100 years the Baton Rouge campus of LSU was the only public institution offering graduate degrees. In 1954 Northwestern State College was authorized to grant a master's degree and since that time graduate programs among public institutions have multiplied. The State Board of Education, at its December 15, 1967 meeting, approved the granting of

Table 6
INCREASES IN LOUISIANA COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS*
(Fall Semester)

	1968 Over 1967		1969 Over 1968		1969 Over 1959	
	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
PUBLIC:						
F. T. Nicholls	1,054	28.4%	77	1.6%	3,912	422.9%
Grambling	-436	-10.5	-19	-0.5	975	35.8
La. Polytechnic Inst.	109	1.5	242	3.4	3,988	114.8
LSU:						
Baton Rouge	-95	-0.5	-439	-2.4	7,761	77.2
New Orleans	1,520	20.4	1,321	14.7	8,132[a]	378.1[a]
Alexandria	254	35.0	51	5.2	1,031[b]	---[b]
Eunice	164	48.0	-48	-9.5	458[b]	---[b]
Shreveport	708	87.7	-80	-5.3	1,435[b]	---[c]
LSU Medical Center:						
New Orleans	53	8.0	56	7.8	245	46.6
Shreveport	---	---	33	---[c]	33[c]	---[c]
McNeese	511	11.3	43	0.9	2,617	106.2
Northeast	862	12.8	14	0.2	5,098	202.5
Northwestern	217	3.4	-533	-8.1	3,130	108.4
Southeastern	179	3.4	90	1.6	3,818	220.2
Southern:						
Baton Rouge	250	3.4	-382	-5.0	2,384	49.2
New Orleans	25	1.4	-474	-26.6	1,151[d]	728.5[d]
Shreveport	289	79.8	30	4.6	681[b]	---[b]
U. of Southwestern La.	436	4.7	197	2.0	5,298	113.5
Total, Public	6,100	7.2	179	0.2	52,147	133.3
PRIVATE:						
Centenary	-283	-17.8	-252	-19.3	-557	-34.5
Dillard	-95	-9.5	12	1.3	-2	-0.2
Louisiana College	-48	-4.2	-115	-10.5	23	2.4
Loyola	195	4.5	336	7.4	2,513	106.8
St. Mary's Dominican	58	11.3	26	4.5	139	30.2
Tulane	32	0.4	-125	-1.5	1,663	25.3
Xavier	16	1.2	119	8.7	499	50.8
Total, Private	-125	-0.7	1		4,278	30.9
Total, Public and Private	5,975	5.8	180	0.2	56,425	106.5

*Resident degree-credit students only. Includes full-time as well as part-time students.

[a] Opened in 1960 as a 2-year institution.

[b] Opened in 1967 as a 2-year institution.

[c] Opened in 1969 with M.D. degree students only.

[d] Opened in 1959 with freshmen class only. Upper level classes added each subsequent year.

[e] Less than 0.1 per cent.

doctorate degrees at 5 institutions under its governance, involving 10 different fields of study.

In the fall of 1969, there were 194 students enrolled for a doctorate degree at public institutions under the State Board of Education, compared to 148 students at these institutions in 1968. (See Table 4.) These 194 students represent 18 per cent of the 1,095 doctoral students enrolled at all Louisiana public institutions and 11 per cent of the 1,740 doctoral students enrolled at both public and private colleges and universities. (It should be understood that this is a head count of doctoral degree

Table 7
TREND IN LOUISIANA COLLEGE ENROLLMENTS,* BY CLASS
(Fall Semester)

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
PUBLIC:											
Freshmen	14,903	16,152	17,924	18,775	19,042	24,457	27,967	29,597	29,543	32,049	33,248
Sophomores	7,496	8,090	8,870	9,369	10,916	11,384	14,522	15,273	17,856	18,211	16,247
Juniors	6,107	6,417	7,096	7,820	8,519	8,828	9,576	11,521	12,973	13,393	13,194
Seniors	5,826	6,335	6,689	7,273	7,789	9,215	9,321	10,062	11,762	13,186	14,222
Evening & Special	1,727	1,639	1,723	1,984	2,895	3,043	3,023	3,684	4,388	4,641	4,555
Graduate & Professional	3,071	3,342	3,716	4,126	4,666	6,207	6,625	7,527	8,476	9,618	9,811
Total, Public	39,130	41,975	46,018	49,347	53,827	63,134	71,034	77,664	84,998	91,098	91,277
PRIVATE:											
Freshmen	2,840	2,958	2,832	2,607	2,697	3,002	3,285	3,503	3,322	3,070	3,360
Sophomores	1,994	2,033	2,277	2,160	1,951	2,205	2,417	2,668	2,746	2,560	2,380
Juniors	1,522	1,587	1,647	1,707	1,670	1,638	1,819	2,074	2,205	2,210	2,124
Seniors	1,419	1,374	1,477	1,629	1,681	1,730	1,645	1,758	2,029	2,155	2,187
Evening & Special	3,618	3,455	3,291	3,373	3,451	3,461	3,106	3,374	3,874	3,691	3,516
Graduate & Professional	2,463	2,607	2,863	2,960	3,467	3,659	3,885	4,136	4,082	4,447	4,567
Total, Private	13,856	14,014	14,387	14,436	14,917	15,695	16,157	17,513	18,258	18,133	18,134
Total, Public and Private	52,986	55,989	60,405	63,783	68,744	78,829	87,191	95,177	103,256	109,231	109,411
Per Cent of Enrollment in Public Institutions	73.8%	75.0%	76.2%	77.4%	78.3%	80.1%	81.5%	81.6%	82.3%	83.4%	83.4%

*Resident degree-credit students only. Includes full-time as well as part-time students.

students; some may be undertaking a full schedule while others may have enrolled for a single course only.) The largest number of students--138--were enrolled for the Ph.D. or Ed.D. degree in education at 3 colleges under the State Board of Education and far exceeds the 79 students enrolled for a doctorate degree in education at LSU-Baton Rouge. USL is authorized to grant doctorate degrees in 5 different fields, but only 3 students were enrolled in English, 3 in history, 3 in biology and 5 in microbiology. No students were enrolled for a doctorate degree in two areas authorized--economics at LPI and pharmacy at Northeast.

10-Year Growth

During the 10-year period, 1959-1969, the number of college students in Louisiana increased by 56,425, or 106.5 per cent. Most of this growth occurred among the public institutions--52,147 students, or 133.3 per cent.

Southern-New Orleans was the fastest growing institution in the state during the 10-year period, but this campus did not open until 1959 and had only a freshman class that year. Of those institutions established prior to 1959, Nicholls had the greatest expansion in its student body, with a 422.9 per cent increase, followed by LSU-New Orleans with a 378.1 per cent gain. LSU-New Orleans was the fastest growing institution in 1969 compared to 1968, increasing by 14.7 per cent. (See Tables 5 and 6.)

Table 8
FRESHMEN AS PER CENT OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

	Year	Total	White*	Negro*
Actual:				
	1958	60.5%	67.0%	42.9%
	1959	62.2	68.9	44.6
	1960	62.2	70.7	39.8
	1961	64.0	72.9	40.9
	1962	64.3	72.5	43.4
	1963	64.4	75.5	38.5
	1964	67.0	76.8	41.4
	1965	68.1	79.0	39.2
	1966	71.5	82.6	43.8
	1967	69.8	83.9	36.6
	1968	72.5	86.8	40.8
	1969	72.3	86.8	39.3
Projected:				
	1970	72.6	87.0	40.0
	1971	73.4	87.5	40.5
	1972	73.9	88.0	41.0
	1973	74.3	88.5	41.5
	1974	74.4	89.0	42.0
	1975	74.9	89.5	42.5

*High school graduates based on race of individual students. College freshmen based on predominately white or Negro institutions.

Public vs. Private Enrollments

For a number of years the trend in Louisiana as well as in other states has been for an increasingly larger proportion of college students to attend public rather than private institutions of higher education. This is doubtless due to more persons seeking college educations and at lower cost. In 1940 a little over half (54.1 per cent) of Louisiana's college students attended public institutions, and by 1950 this proportion grew to 59.5 per cent. By 1959 almost three-fourths (73.8 per cent) enrolled in Louisiana's public colleges and universities, and this grew to 83.4 per cent in 1968. However, in 1969 this trend leveled off, and the same percentage attended public colleges in 1969 as did in 1968. (See Table 7.)

Graduate students make up a larger proportion of the enrollment at private institutions than public--25 per cent versus 11 per cent in both 1968 and 1969--even though only a few private institutions in Louisiana (Loyola, Tulane and Xavier) offer graduate curricula.

Freshmen Enrollments

Many high school graduates seek a college education, although a large number drop out during or after their freshman year. In 1969 freshmen comprised 33.5 per cent of all students enrolled at both public and private institutions in Louisiana, and 36.4 per cent of those enrolled at public institutions.

An ever-increasing proportion of high school graduates have been entering college in Louisiana. When the number of high school graduates in a school year is related to the number of freshmen in the fall of that year, the proportion was 60.5 per cent in 1958, grew to a high of 72.5 per cent in 1968 and dropped slightly to 72.3 per cent in 1969. For white students, the ratio of high school graduates to freshmen increased from 67 per cent in 1958 to 86.8 per cent in 1968 and remained at the same proportion in 1969. For Negroes, the proportion of high school graduates going on to college declined--from 42.9 per cent in 1958 to 39.3 per cent in 1969. (See Table 8.)

Data for freshmen is not for "first-time students" only (i.e., a new freshman who has never previously been enrolled in a higher education institution), and thus there is some overlap in relating freshmen to high school graduates for those freshmen who remain so for longer than a year. Also, data by race is available for high school graduates, but it is not available on freshmen enrollments. Hence, for college students it was necessary to classify data by predominately white or black institution rather than by individual students. The decline in the proportion of Negro high school graduates attending college may be partly due to the fact that some Negroes have been attending predominately white institutions in increasing numbers.

Data for the nation on the proportion of high school graduates who enter college is not available which is comparable to that gathered by PAR. A nationwide study by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, based on questionnaires to a sampling of high school graduates, found that 47 per cent of the October 1965 high school graduates had gone on to college by February 1967.

Table 9

TREND IN NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES*

School Year	Total	White**	Negro**
Actual:			
1957-58	26,602	19,455	7,147
1958-59	28,503	20,707	7,796
1959-60	30,705	22,256	8,449
1960-61	32,422	23,402	9,020
1961-62	33,267	23,868	9,399
1962-63	33,768	23,621	10,147
1963-64	41,010	29,580	11,430
1964-65	45,867	33,298	12,569
1965-66	46,303	33,053	13,250
1966-67	47,082	33,014	14,068
1967-68	48,450	33,386	15,064
1968-69	50,611	35,159	15,452
Projected:			
1969-70	52,349	36,357	15,992
1970-71	54,501	38,111	16,390
1971-72	55,569	38,956	16,613
1972-73	56,099	39,115	16,984
1973-74	57,949	39,984	17,965
1974-75	59,334	40,899	18,435

*Includes graduates for school year--summer, mid-term and spring.
**Based on race of individual students.

Table 10

TREND IN NUMBER OF COLLEGE FRESHMEN

Fall of Year	Total	White*	Negro*
Actual:			
1958	16,094	13,026	3,068
1959	17,743	14,266	3,477
1960	19,110	15,745	3,365
1961	20,756	17,070	3,686
1962	21,382	17,307	4,075
1963	21,739	17,834	3,905
1964	27,459	22,722	4,737
1965	31,252	26,321	4,931
1966	33,100	27,294	5,806
1967	32,865	27,714	5,151
1968	35,119	28,980	6,139
1969	36,608	30,534	6,074
Projected:			
1970	38,028	31,631	6,397
1971	39,985	33,347	6,638
1972	41,092	34,281	6,811
1973	41,665	34,617	7,048
1974	43,131	35,586	7,545
1975	44,440	36,605	7,835

*Based on predominately white and Negro institutions. Data on race of students not available.

Table 11

TREND IN NUMBER OF COLLEGE FRESHMEN*

Fall of Year	Total	White**		Negro**		Public		Private	
		Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
1958	16,094	13,026	80.9%	3,068	19.1%	13,249	82.3%	2,845	17.7%
1959	17,743	14,266	80.4	3,477	19.6	14,903	84.0	2,840	16.0
1960	19,110	15,745	82.4	3,365	17.6	16,152	84.5	2,958	15.5
1961	20,756	17,070	82.2	3,686	17.8	17,924	86.4	2,832	13.6
1962	21,382	17,307	80.9	4,075	19.1	18,775	87.8	2,607	12.2
1963	21,739	17,834	82.0	3,905	18.0	19,042	87.6	2,697	12.4
1964	27,459	22,722	82.7	4,737	17.3	24,457	89.1	3,002	10.9
1965	31,252	26,321	84.2	4,931	15.8	27,967	89.5	3,285	10.5
1966	33,100	27,294	82.5	5,806	17.5	29,597	89.4	3,503	10.6
1967	32,865	27,714	84.3	5,151	15.7	29,543	89.9	3,322	10.1
1968	35,119	28,980	82.5	6,139	17.5	32,049	91.3	3,070	8.7
1969	36,608	30,534	83.4	6,074	16.6	33,248	90.8	3,360	9.2

*Resident degree-credit students only. Includes full-time as well as part-time students. Includes all freshmen rather than first-time students only.
**Based on predominately white and Negro institutions.

In Louisiana in 1967, the ratio of high school graduates to college freshmen was 69.8 per cent. Thus, although not strictly comparable, it does appear that a larger proportion of high school graduates go to college in Louisiana than is true for the country as a whole.

PAR Projections of High School Graduates and Freshmen

On the basis of past trends, PAR projects that the ratio of high school graduates to college freshmen will increase to 74.9 per cent by 1975--with 89.5 per cent of white and 42.5 per cent of Negro high school graduates becoming college freshmen. (See Table 8.) This will depend, of course, on present problems of school desegregation in some parishes being settled quickly so that students not attending school, or schools not offering a diploma acceptable by a college, will return to school and be eligible to enter college after high school graduation.

The trend in the number of high school graduates at both public and private schools and PAR projections to 1975 are shown in Table 9. There was an annual increase of 2,161 high school graduates, or 4.5 per cent, in the school year 1968-69--the largest increase since 1964-65. Of the added number of high school graduates, 1,773 were white and only 388 Negro.

The number of freshmen enrolled in Louisiana colleges increased by 1,489 in 1969, or 4.2 per cent. The increase in the number of freshmen at predominately white institutions was 1,554 while the number of freshmen at predominately Negro institutions dropped by 65 students. (See Table 10.) The proportion of freshmen attending predominately white institutions declined, however, from a high of 84.3 per cent in 1967 to 83.4 per cent in 1969. Of the total freshmen enrolled in Louisiana at public and private colleges, a smaller proportion attended public institutions in 1969 (90.8 per cent) than in 1968 (91.3 per cent). (See Table 11.)

Figures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the past trend in high school graduates and freshmen in Louisiana as well as PAR projections. While there have been some variations, the yearly changes in high school graduates closely parallel the number of college freshmen.

Table 12

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES* AS PER CENT OF FIRST GRADE ENROLLMENT 12 YEARS EARLIER

Year	Total	White	Negro
1957-58	31.3%	48.4%	16.0%
1958-59	33.9	50.3	18.2
1959-60	36.3	52.2	20.1
1960-61	38.3	53.2	22.2
1961-62	40.5	54.8	24.3
1962-63	42.8	56.5	27.4
1963-64	47.4	59.2	31.2
1964-65	50.8	61.7	34.6
1965-66	52.9	64.2	36.7
1966-67	54.3	64.9	39.2
1967-68	55.2	64.8	41.5
1968-69	55.0	63.6	42.1

*Includes graduates in summer, mid-term and spring.

Holding Power of the Schools

The holding power of elementary and high schools has a definite effect on college enrollments,

Table 13

PROGRESSION OF STUDENTS – PERCENTAGE CLASS IS OF PRECEDING YEAR'S CLASS*

Fall Semester	Public				Private			
	Freshmen	Freshmen to Sophomores	Sophomores to Juniors	Juniors to Seniors[a]	Freshmen	Freshmen to Sophomores	Sophomores to Juniors	Juniors to Seniors[a]
1959	100.0%	56.6%	85.9%	98.7%	100.0%	70.1%	74.8%	86.5%
1960	100.0	54.3	85.6	103.7	100.0	71.6	79.6	90.3
1961	100.0	54.9	87.7	104.2	100.0	77.0	81.0	93.1
1962	100.0	52.3	88.2	102.5	100.0	76.3	75.0	98.9
1963	100.0	58.1	90.9	99.6	100.0	74.8	77.3	98.5
1964	100.0	59.8	80.9	108.2	100.0	81.8	84.0	103.6
1965	100.0	59.4	84.1	105.6	100.0	80.5	82.5	100.4
1966	100.0	54.6	79.3	105.1	100.0	81.2	85.8	96.6
1967	100.0	60.3	84.9	102.1[b]	100.0	78.4	82.6	97.8
1968	100.0	61.6	75.0	101.6[b]	100.0	77.1	80.5	97.7
1969	100.0	50.7	72.4	106.2	100.0	77.5	83.0	99.0

*Resident degree-credit students. Includes full-time as well as part-time students.

[a] A senior class may be larger than the preceding year's junior class because a student may attain enough credits to be classified as a senior but require more than a year to meet requirements for graduation.

[b] Louisiana Polytechnic Institute and LSU-Baton Rouge lowered their requirements for being classified as a senior, thereby increasing their number of seniors and reducing their number of juniors.

Figure 1

TREND IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND COLLEGE FRESHMEN WHITE AND NEGRO, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

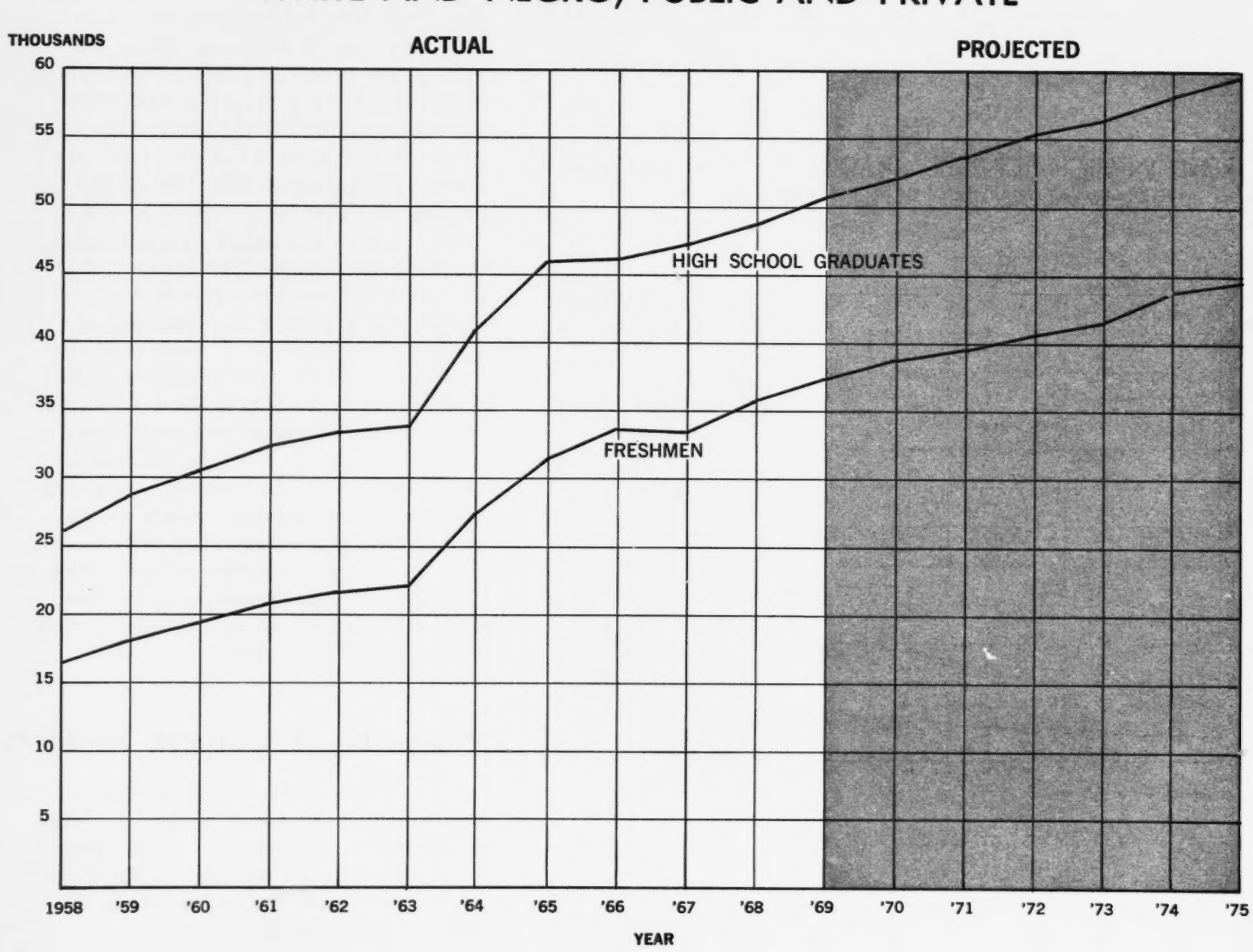


Figure 2

TREND IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND COLLEGE FRESHMEN WHITE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

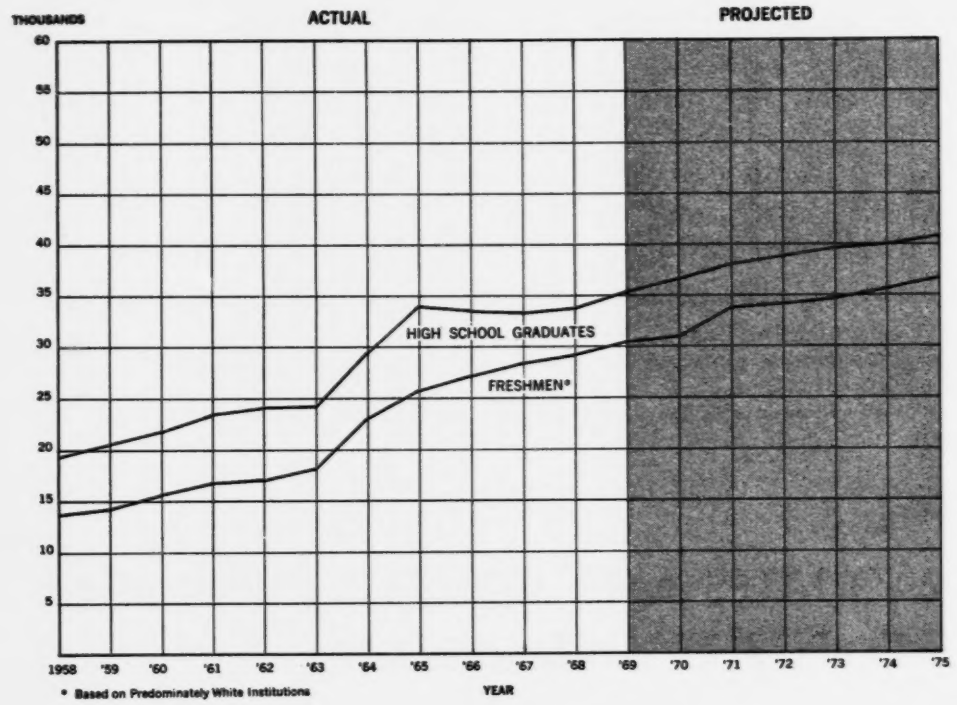
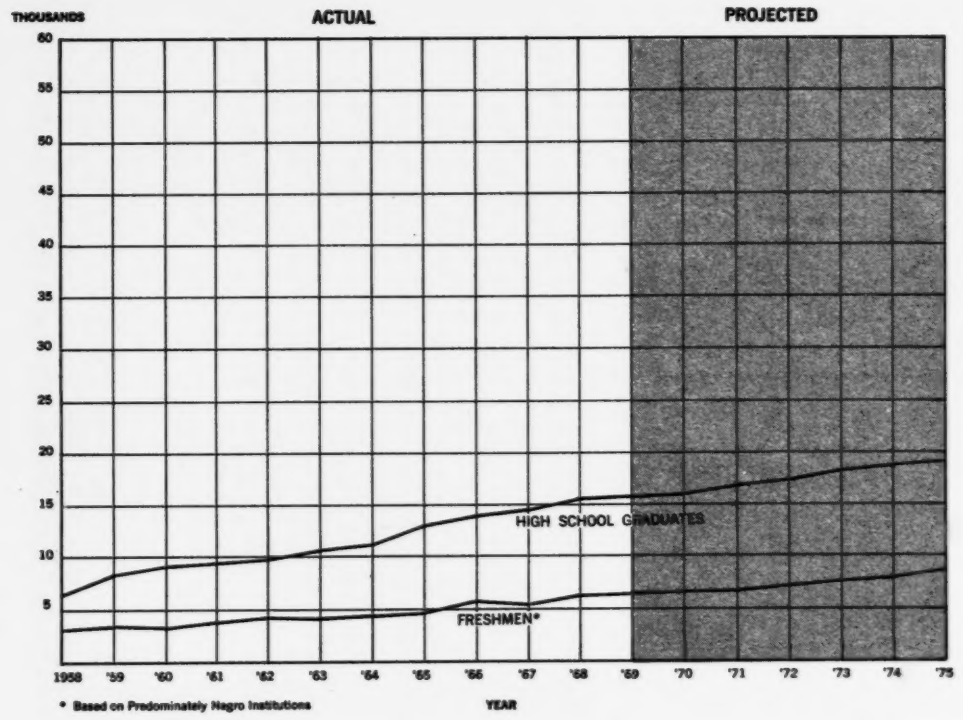


Figure 3

TREND IN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND COLLEGE FRESHMEN, NEGRO, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE



and in recent years there has been a decided improvement in Louisiana in the retention of youth in school until they graduate from high school. For example, in the school year 1957-58, less than a third (31.3 per cent) of those entering the first grade 12 years previously graduated from high school. This proportion grew to 55.2 per cent in the 1967-68 year, but dropped slightly to 55.0 per cent in 1968-69. The holding power of the schools for white children has been dropping during the past 3 years--from 64.9 per cent in 1966-67,to 64.8 per cent in 1967-68,to 63.6 per cent in 1968-69. There has been a dramatic increase in the retention of Negro children from the first grade until high school graduation--from 16.0 per cent in 1957-58 to 42.1 per cent in 1968-69. (See Table 12.)

Nationwide figures are available on retention rates from the fifth grade through high school graduation. For 1967 (the latest published data), 72.1 per cent of those entering the fifth grade remained to graduate from high school. Louisiana's retention rate was considerably lower than the national average--61.2 per cent of those previously in the fifth grade graduated from high school in 1967.

Retention rates are not computed on the basis of individual students but rather the ratio of the number of students in a particular grade to the number of high school graduates within a stipulated number of years required to graduate. Migration can doubtless affect such retention rates. For example, if more families have been leaving Louisiana than moving in during recent years, this could help explain the recent drop in school retention rates. The slowdown in construction and other economic activities in Louisiana may have caused families to leave the state.

Progression of College Students

While many enter college in Louisiana, only about a third receive a baccalaureate degree. The ratio of the number of bachelor's degrees conferred in 1967-68 (the latest data published by the U. S. Office of

Education) to the number of Louisiana freshmen 4 years earlier is 32.5 per cent. The ratio for predominately white institutions is 32.3 per cent and for Negro institutions, 33.8 per cent.

The highest dropout rate is in the sophomore year, and this was particularly so in 1969. Among public institutions, the retention rate of sophomores to freshmen the prior year increased to a high of 61.6 per cent in 1968, but dropped to 50.7 per cent in 1969. (See Table 13.) Among individual public institutions, the ratio of sophomores in 1969 to freshmen the prior year varied from a low of 36.2 per cent at Southern-New Orleans to a high of 65.6 per cent at LSU-Baton Rouge. Nicholls, Northeast, Northwestern, Southern-Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and USL showed a decided drop in the retention rate of sophomores to freshmen as compared to prior years.

The retention rate from junior to senior class is quite high. In fact, there are usually more seniors than juniors the prior year, particularly at public institutions. (See Table 13.) One reason is that some institutions lowered their requirements for students to be classified as a senior. Another is that a student may earn enrough hours to be classified as a senior in 3 years or less (usually 90 to 92 hours), but may remain a senior for more than a year in order to meet graduation requirements for the particular degree he is seeking.

CONCLUSIONS

Colleges were faced with a deluge of students in 1964 and 1965, due mainly to the tremendous increase in births following World War II. However, the rate of increase in college students has been tapering off and actually leveled out in 1969. In Louisiana and nationally, the number of births has been declining year after year since a peak was reached in 1957. While some feel that this 12-year trend may soon be reversed, colleges would not feel the impact for 18 years.

Louisiana's high schools are generally geared to the student who wishes to enter college, and actually Louisiana offers little alternative but college for those who wish to continue their education after they graduate from high school. However, there are relatively few who do receive a college diploma. On the basis of relating first grade enrollments to high school graduates 12 years later, college freshmen to high school graduates, and the number of freshmen to those receiving a baccalaureate degree 4 years later, the following may be generalized. In Louisiana, out of 100 persons who enter the first grade, 55 graduate from high school, 40 enter college and 13 receive a bachelor's degree. The picture is different for white and Negro students. For the whites, 64 out of 100 in the first grade graduate from high school, 56 of the 100 enter college and 18 graduate. Among Negro students, for every 100 in the first grade, 42 graduate from high school, 17 go on to college and 6 receive a bachelor's degree. This method is not precise since it does not follow individual students and data by race is not available at the college level, but it does give some insight into progression of students through college on the basis of past trends.

There are a number of factors that could change future trends in college enrollments. The holding power of the schools until high school graduation should continue upward since there is room for improvement, particularly among Negroes. Also, an increasing proportion of high school graduates may go on to college, but the proportion of white high school graduates entering college may be reaching the saturation point since the present 87 per cent seems high. Also, more students may remain in college until graduation since a college education is becoming more essential for many endeavors.

Factors Affecting 1969 Enrollments

There does not seem to be a single factor that can be isolated to explain the sudden halt in the growth of college enrollments in Louisiana, for each institution had different experiences. There were no changes in admission policies nor scholastic requirements to cause a lowering of 1969 enrollments. There are several factors that may have combined in different ways to affect enrollments at the various campuses:

1. The number of 18-year olds in the population is diminishing. However, there was a greater increase in the number of Louisiana high school graduates in the school year 1968-69 than in previous years, and overall, the number of college freshmen increased in 1969 at about the same rate as high school graduates.

2. A large number of post-World War II babies entered college as freshmen in 1964 and 1965 and swelled the size of student bodies. Doubtless many remained for the next 4 years to complete their college education, but by 1969 this large group had completed their undergraduate study.

3. Inflation and a sag in Louisiana's economy may have caused some not to go to college. Others may have gone to a campus close to home where costs would be less, thereby causing some campuses to lose enrollments and others to gain. For example, students in the Alexandria or New Orleans area may have gone to local campuses in those cities rather than go to another college away from home. However, this does not explain the drop in enrollments which occurred at such campuses as LSU-Shreveport and LSU-Eunice while LSU-New Orleans and LSU-Alexandria had increased enrollments.

4. Potential college students may have been unable to obtain enough aid to finance their education. It has been reported that some institutions were forced to reduce their student work programs as an economy measure, thereby eliminating job opportunities for some students. The state government has also curtailed employment of students; some businesses, because of economic conditions, may have done likewise, thereby decreasing possibilities of students obtaining off-campus jobs.

The state does have a student loan program, initiated in 1964, which appears to be working successfully to aid students unable to finance their education. On the basis of loans made through October 1969, the director of the program anticipates that student loans this academic year will increase by 20 to 25 per cent in both the amount loaned and the number of loans. There are also a number of other state and federal student loan programs. The appropriation of federal funds for some of these programs has been delayed, but this is said not to be unusual.

5. The $100 a semester increase in student fees at all public colleges and universities, made effective last spring, may have been too great a financial burden for some students. However, according to data collected by the Office of Institutional Research of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, Louisiana's student fees are still below the average for the United States and for the 15-state southern region (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia). The charge for state residents attending their state universities and land grant colleges for 1969-70 averages $430 per semester for all states and $363 for the 15 southern states; Louisiana's resident fees are $290. Louisiana's fees for nonresidents are also below averages for the United States and southern states. Similarly for the other state colleges (primarily 4-year baccalaureate degree-granting schools), fees for state residents in 1969-70 averaged $350 for the United States, $330 for the southern states, and $296 for Louisiana. Among the 15 southern states only 3 (Kentucky, Texas and West Virginia) had student fees which were lower than Louisiana's at state universities and land grant colleges, and these 3 states plus Tennessee had lower fees than Louisiana's at the other state colleges. According to an analysis by the Southern Regional Education Board, only Kentucky and West Virginia in the 15-southern state area did not raise fees at state universities and land grant colleges this fall, and only Oklahoma did not increase fees at the other state colleges. Fee increases occurred this year at 64 per cent of the state universities and land grant colleges in the southern area and 71 per cent of the other state colleges. Hence, while there was a relatively sharp increase in Louisiana's student fees, Louisiana's student fees are still among the lowest in the South, and the raising of fees was not unique to this state. The number of freshmen increased in about the same proportion as high school graduates but there was a drop in sophomores; this poses the question as to why freshmen were able to pay the fee increase and sophomores and other upper classmen could not.

6. Changes in and concern over draft policies may have had an impact on student enrollments, but the effect in some instances could have increased rather than decreased the number of students for those who remained in college or returned to avoid military service.

7. Student unrest at some campuses of Southern University may have caused some of these students to drop out of college or go elsewhere. This might explain in part why some Louisiana institutions gained in enrollments while others lost. Incidents in Louisiana, however, were not of as great a magnitude as occurred in some other states.

Comment

No students capable of achieving a college education and desiring one should be deprived of this opportunity because of their inability to meet the costs. To assure that this is not the case in Louisiana, present student aid programs including federal ones should be studied to be certain that needs of all deserving students are being met. If there are potential college students in need of aid

and they are unable to obtain it, the state should take necessary steps to institute new or expand present student aid programs. It should be pointed out, however, that a college education greatly enhances a person's potential earnings, and thus students reluctant to seek loans should be encouraged to do so. Louisiana's student loan program, which is supplemented by the federal government, provides loans considerably below usual bank rates, and students pay no interest while they are in school. The maximum loans allowed should be adequate to finance a college education. Undergraduate students may borrow up to $1,000 a year or a maximum of $5,000 while an undergraduate. Graduate students may borrow up to $1,500 a year or a maximum of $7,500 at any one time.

A large proportion of Louisiana's high school graduates enter college. One reason may be that there are few other acceptable alternatives. Some states have developed excellent technical programs for students not wishing to pursue a baccalaureate degree, or who drop out of college for varied reasons. Louisiana has 34 trade and vocational schools scattered throughout the state, but they frequently do not provide training in skilled technical areas. Also, some high school graduates may be reluctant to enroll in a trade school because they feel it is a place for the high school dropout or poor student. (PAR has underway a major study on vocational and technical training needs in Louisiana.)

Louisiana has done very little planning in higher education, but the recent establishment of the Louisiana Coordinating Council for Higher Education should alleviate this situation. The council now has a staff, and its first task is to develop a master plan for the state. As part of future planning, long-range estimates of Louisiana's public and private college enrollments should be made and revised annually to reflect actual changes. If there are radical departures from projections, the reasons should be analyzed and incorporated into future planning.

Officials at some public colleges have been basing their requests for state funds on rising enrollments. However, student bodies on many campuses did not grow this year, and thus, this basis of demonstrating need no longer exists. Higher education, if for no other reason than that it is of unique importance to the future of the state, should be among the highest priorities in allocating state funds. There is little doubt that higher education will require increasing amounts, but financing should be based on sound planning and clearly demonstrated needs. The LSU system has initiated a management study of its operations, and colleges under the State Board of Education have been encouraged to take similar steps.